

**Statement under article 19(1)**

We have amended the claims 1, 2 and claims 6 to 25 in response to citations mentioned in the ISR:

Independent claim 1 was changed as follows:

- The alternative formula (IIb) was eliminated in response to prior art stated (WO 98/45272 A (Latrobe University; DEADY et al. (1998-10-15), see pages 11-12, table 1, form A, compound 7). None of the compounds referring to formula (I) as claimed in amended claim 1 were disclosed by references cited in the ISR.
- The groups consisting of  $-\text{CONH}(\text{CH}_2)_u\text{Z}-$  and  $-\text{CONH}-(\text{CH}_2)_u\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2\text{OH})\text{CH}_2\text{Z}-$  were excluded from the definition of the biradical -B-. Subsequently, the biradical of an oligonucleotide phosphate -Z- was also eliminated.
- Hydrogen H was excluded from the definition of the radical  $\text{G}_2-$ . The proviso in the original claim 1 was eliminated.

Claim 2, dependent on claim 1, was amended by changing the old reference (IIa) to a reference (II), for the avoidance of doubt.

Old claims 6 and 7 were eliminated.

Old claims 8 and 9, corresponding to new claims 6 and 7, were amended by changing the reference to new claims 2-5, reflecting the change of numeration effected by elimination of claims 6 and 7.

Similar changes of reference were made in old claims 10 and 11, corresponding to new claims 8 and 9, old claims 13 and 14, corresponding to new claims 11 and 12, old claim 15, now claim 13, to reflect the change of numeration effected by the elimination of claims.

Old claim 12, corresponding to new claim 10, was amended by changing the old reference (IIa) for the new reference (II), for the avoidance of doubt.

Old claims 16 and 17 were eliminated.

Old claim 18, corresponding to new claim 14, was amended by changing the reference to new claims 10-13, instead of to old claims 12-17, to reflect the change of numeration effected by the elimination of claims 6, 7, 16 and 17.

Similar changes of reference were made in old claims 19 and 20, corresponding to new claims 15 and 16, old claims 21 and 22, corresponding to new claims 17 and 18, old claims 24 and 25, corresponding to new claims 20 and 21, to reflect the change of numeration effected by the elimination of claims.

Old claim 23, corresponding to new claim 19 and dependent to claim 1 was amended by eliminating the compounds (Io), (Ip), (Ir), (Is), (It), (Iu), (Iv), (Iw) and (Ix).

All sheets in the claim section were substituted by new sheets.

The elimination of any subject matter from the claims does not constitute abandonment of the corresponding subject matter from the scope of the invention.

The applicants and inventors reserve the right to re-introduce into the claims any matter no longer claimed in the amended claims, at a subsequent step of the process, or to pursue such matter in a divisional application.